

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:

an ink jet head which has a wiring substrate mounted with a driving circuit including a driving IC and in which a driving voltage is applied to an electrode provided on a side wall of a groove formed in a piezoelectric ceramic plate to vary a volume in the groove to thereby discharge ink filled therein from a nozzle opening; and an external circuit connected to the driving circuit, wherein:

the ink jet head is provided with data storage means for storing driving information data at least including driving condition data of the ink jet head; and

the external circuit is provided with setting means for reading at least the driving condition data included in the driving information data and automatically setting driving conditions of the ink jet head.

2. An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving condition data includes voltage rank data for setting a magnitude of the driving voltage to a predetermined value.

3. An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving information data includes dot count data

obtained by counting the number of times of ink discharge of the ink jet head.

4. An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising data writing means for storing the number of times of ink discharge of the ink jet head as the dot count data in the data storage means.

5. An ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

data managing means for managing the dot count data stored in the data storage means; and

notifying means for notifying that the ink jet head is close to the end of its lifetime, wherein

the data managing means makes the notifying means operate at a time point when the dot count data attains a predetermined value or more.